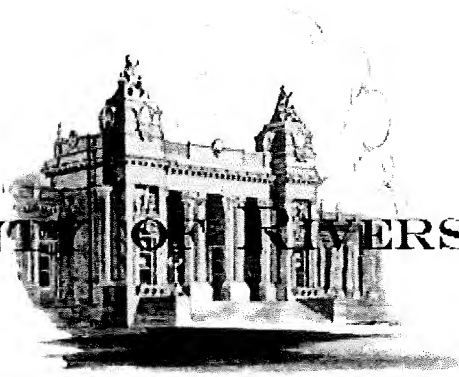


# COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



## Board of Supervisors

District 1	Kevin Jeffries 951-955-1010
District 2	Karen Spiegel 951-955-1020
District 3	Chuck Washington 951-955-1030
District 4	V. Manuel Perez 951-955-1040
District 5	Jeff Hewitt 951-955-1050

April 16, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

As the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, I am writing you about the developing immigration-related humanitarian crisis that is now directly impacting Riverside County, specifically the communities and essential services in the eastern portion of our county.

On March 28th, the City of Blythe Police Department was notified by the United States Border Patrol that the Yuma Sector has experienced a significant rise in the number of family units arrested throughout their sector for immigration violations. The Border Patrol advised that their processing centers are not designed to house the current numbers of families and small children that they are encountering. Due to capacity issues at these processing centers the Border Patrol has begun transporting families and individuals to the City of Blythe and releasing them with a notice to appear for their immigration hearings. As of this writing there have been 223 families totaling 448 individuals released in the City of Blythe.

The City of Blythe and supporting local Non-Government Organizations have extremely limited resources to meet the basic service needs for this influx of immigrants. In cooperation with the City of Blythe and surrounding communities, the County of Riverside has diverted critical social, behavioral health, public health, transportation, and housing services to assist in meeting the humanitarian needs of these immigrant families seeking asylum. Diversion of county resources is impacting services essential to the Eastern Riverside County communities of the Palo Verde and Coachella Valleys. These resources cannot continue to meet the needs of these immigrant families in addition to the existing community needs for an indefinite period.

Thousands of immigrants continue to be processed by US Customs and Immigration Enforcement (ICE), indicating there is no end to the release of these families that are impacting Riverside County communities. I am requesting the state to provide food, short and long-term housing, travel assistance, medical and behavior health care, and case management to these immigrant families that are being dropped off in Riverside County.

(Continued)

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If the state has no plan in place for the provision of these services, Riverside County requests immediate approval of state funding pursuant to Section 23.20 of the Budget Act of 2018 (The Rapid Response Reserve Fund of 2018), to assist qualified community-based organizations and nonprofit entities during this immigration emergency situation for which federal funding is unavailable and/or the redirection of state-level staff to directly assist in the response efforts to meet the humanitarian needs of these immigrant families.

Thank you for your immediate attention and assistance.

Respectfully,

KEVIN D. JEFFRIES  
Chairman, Riverside County